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## > > > LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES

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### LESSON OVERVIEW:

Students will learn about different family compositions, interview family members, and create a family tree. This pre-visit activity is a part of the Family Culture Project.

### STANDARDS:

- Students draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies such as generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, and comparing information from several sources.  
*(California Content Standards for English-Language Arts, Grades 3-4, Reading Standard 2.0)*
- Students describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose.  
*(California Content Standards for English-Language Arts, Grades 5-6, Reading Standard 2.0)*
- Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication.  
*(California Content Standards for English-Language Arts, Grades 3-4, Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0)*

### ASSESSMENT:

- Students will make conclusions about different family compositions.
- Students will interview family members about the composition of their own family.
- Students will create a family tree.

### INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND STRATEGIES:

1. Read a book about families to the students
2. Ask students to define what “family” means. Have the students brainstorm a list of who makes up a family. Pay particular attention to exceptions to the “nuclear family” so that all students feel represented and validated. Show that differences are okay.
3. Show the students an example of a completed family tree.
4. Show the students multiple templates for creating a family tree. Students may use one of these templates or create their own representation of a family tree.
5. Give the *Family Tree handout* to the students, read through the activity, and assign a deadline. Either the students will have to collect information about their family to bring to school or this project will have to be done at home with a family member.
6. Distribute supplies.
7. Give 3-4 days to complete.
8. Students can share family trees with classmates or in small groups
9. In small groups, have students make a tally of where all of their relatives were born (city and country) Keep this information for a graphing and geography activity.

## FAMILY CULTURE PROJECT: FAMILY TREE ACTIVITY

### EXTENSIONS:

- Create a family tree collage with photographs

**TIME ELEMENT:** Students should have 3-4 days to complete their family tree

- MATERIALS/RESOURCES:**
- Book about different family compositions. Here are a few recommended titles or you may use one that is your personal favorite:
    - Greenberg, Keith Elliot. *Zack's Story: Growing Up with Same-Sex Parents*. Minneapolis, MN: Lerner Publications Co., 1996
    - Lindsay, Jeanne Warren. *Do I Have a Daddy?: a story about a single-parent child with a special section for single mothers and fathers*. Buena Park, CA: Morning Glory Press, 1991
    - Pellegrini, Nina. *Families are Different*. New York: Holiday House, 1991
    - Schreck, Karen Halvorsen. *Lucy's Family Tree*. Gardiner, ME: Tilbury House, 2001.
  - *Family Tree* handout
  - Artistic representation of teacher's family tree to use as an example
  - Family Tree templates from <http://www.workman.com/familytree/download/>
  - Supplies for the family tree (construction paper, etc) Paper should be no bigger than 8 ½" x 11" because this will need to be the center of the Family Quilt



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# FAMILY TREE

**Directions**

Your job is to research your family members. For each person you research, you need to include his/her name, how he/she is related to you, when he/she was born (if you know), and where he/she was born (if you know).

People you are to include on your family tree:

\_\_\_\_\_ Yourself

\_\_\_\_\_ Your mom/step-mom/adoptive mom

\_\_\_\_\_ Your dad/step-dad/adoptive dad

\_\_\_\_\_ Your sisters or brothers/step sisters or brothers/half sisters or brothers

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom's sisters and brothers

\_\_\_\_\_ Dad's sisters and brothers

\_\_\_\_\_ Mom's mom and dad (your grandparents)

\_\_\_\_\_ Dad's mom and dad (your grandparents)

\_\_\_\_\_ Any other relatives you would like to include

Once you finish your research, you need to create a family tree with all of this information. Your family tree should be drawn on nice construction paper, written neatly, with all names spelled correctly.